

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A breathing assistance apparatus comprising:
a mask body adapted to cover the nose, or nose and mouth of a patient, and
a sealing interface including at least an outer sealing member arranged about an opening in said mask body, said outer sealing member being adapted to seal around a patient's facial contours,
said outer sealing member including a peripheral wall adapted to attach to said mask body and a sealing flange provided about a patient end of said peripheral wall ~~section in a sealing manner,~~ said peripheral wall including a bridge region that extends over a patient's nasal bridge in use,
said bridge region of said peripheral wall having a thin section comprising a material cross-section that is thinner than adjacent regions of said outer sealing member, said thin section of said nasal bridge region being surrounded by thicker sections of said outer sealing member cross section than the rest of said peripheral wall,
~~wherein said outer sealing member is adapted to seal around the facial contours of a patient thereby providing a sealed fluid communication to the respiratory tract of said patient.~~
 2. (Previously Presented) A breathing assistance apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said rest of said peripheral wall of said outer sealing member is at least twice the cross-sectional thickness of said bridge region thin section.
 3. (Cancelled)
 4. (Currently Amended) A breathing assistance apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said patient sealing interface is a full face mask.
 5. (Cancelled)
 6. (Currently Amended) A breathing assistance apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said patient sealing interface is a nasal mask.
 7. (Previously Presented) A breathing assistance apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said sealing interface includes an inner cushion, said inner cushion has a raised section in said bridge region.

8-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) A breathing assistance apparatus according to claim 7 wherein said inner cushion and said outer sealing member are continuously in contact.

11. (Previously Presented) A breathing assistance apparatus according to claim 10 wherein said inner cushion includes a contoured region that is positioned adjacent a patient's cheeks in use, said contoured region is concave so as to accommodate the cartilage extending away from the nose of a patient.

12. (Previously Presented) A breathing assistance apparatus according to claim 10 wherein said bridge region of said peripheral wall tapered away from said patient with respect to the remainder of said peripheral wall.

13-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously Presented) A breathing assistance apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said outer sealing member has a contacting portion that extends about said peripheral wall and is configured to contact a patient's face,

said peripheral wall of said outer sealing member extending between said mask body and said contacting portion, said contacting portion shaped to approximately follow the contours of a patient's face.

21. (Currently Amended) A breathing assistance apparatus according to claim 20 wherein said contacting portion is a peripheral ridge,

~~wherein said outer sealing member including a~~ sealing flange that extends inwardly from said peripheral ridge, said sealing flange configured to seal said breathing assistance apparatus against a patient's face.

22. (Previously Presented) A breathing assistance apparatus according to claim 21 wherein said sealing flange has a reduced cross-sectional thickness compared with said peripheral wall.

23. (Previously Presented) A breathing assistance apparatus according to claim 21 wherein said sealing flange is shaped to follow the contours of said peripheral ridge.

24. (Previously Presented) A breathing assistance apparatus according to claim 20 wherein said breathing assistance apparatus further comprises an inner cushion arranged about

said opening in said mask and adjacent said outer sealing member, said inner cushion in continuous contact with said outer sealing member at said contacting portion.

25. (Currently Amended) A user interface comprising:

a mask body, and

a resilient sealing member arranged about an opening in the mask body, the sealing member having a mask end and a user end, the mask end connecting to the mask body about the opening and the user end being spaced from the mask body and configured to rest adjacent a user's face,

the sealing member further comprising a peripheral wall that extends from the mask body, the wall including a bridge region that is positioned adjacent a user's nasal bridge in use, wherein a thin portion of the bridge region has a smaller cross-sectional thickness than adjacent regions of the sealing member, and wherein the thin portion of the bridge region is intermediate the mask end and the user end of the sealing member such that the sealing member's cross-sectional thickness is greater at the mask end and user end than at the thin bridge region.

~~the bridge region having a reduced material thickness to permit the bridge region to deform sufficiently to accommodate a user's nose.~~

26. (Previously Presented) A user interface according to claim 25 wherein the material thickness of the bridge region is significantly less than the material thickness of adjacent portions of the peripheral wall.

27. (Previously Presented) A user interface according to claim 25 wherein the material thickness of the bridge region is significantly less than the material thickness of the remainder of the peripheral wall.

28. (Previously Presented) A user interface according to claim 25 wherein the resilient sealing member further comprises a contacting portion configured to contact a user's face, the contacting portion extending about the peripheral wall.

29. (Previously Presented) A user interface according to claim 26 wherein the resilient sealing member further comprises a sealing flange configured to form a seal with a user's face, the sealing flange extending inwardly from the contacting portion.

30. (Previously Presented) A user interface according to claim 27 wherein the contacting portion and the sealing flange are shaped approximately to a user's facial contours.

31. (Previously Presented) A user interface according to claim 25 wherein the peripheral wall has a flattened base securing portion configured engage with a complimentary securing track arranged about the opening in the mask body to secure the sealing member in place.

32. (Currently Amended) A sealing member for a user interface comprising:

a peripheral wall arranged in a loop and configured to enclose a user's nose or nose and mouth, the peripheral wall having a mask end configured to engage with a respiratory mask and ~~an~~ a user end configured to contact a user's face, and

a sealing flange arranged about the user end of the peripheral wall and projecting inwardly of the closed loop and terminating in a suspended end, the flange configured to seal against a user's face,

wherein the peripheral wall ~~including~~ includes a bridge region that is positioned adjacent a user's nasal bridge in use, the bridge region having a thin section with a reduced cross-sectional thickness compared with adjacent sections of the sealing member at the user end, the thin section of the bridge region being disposed intermediate the mask end of the peripheral wall and the user end significantly-reduced-cross-sectional thickness.

33. (Previously Presented) A sealing member according to claim 32 wherein the material thickness of the bridge region is significantly less than the material thickness of adjacent portions of the peripheral wall.

34. (Previously Presented) A sealing member according to claim 32 wherein the material thickness of the bridge region is significantly less than the material thickness of the remainder of the peripheral wall.

35. (Previously Presented) A sealing member according to claim 32 wherein a contacting ridge is formed at an interface between the peripheral wall and the sealing flange, the contacting ridge being shaped approximately to the contours of a user's face.